

“ This is the land where I grew up, and thanks to the Foundation, my children will continue to benefit from its resources. ”

**Rural Development and
Quality Agriculture**

Rural Development and Quality Agriculture

● The Rural Development and Agricultural Quality Center

The Safadi Foundation completed the construction of the Rural Development and Agricultural Quality Center, which began in 2002. The Center is located in the town of Deir Dalloum, Akkar. This center provides agricultural extension and technical services to farmers and supports the agricultural sector and its development through providing marketing, training and agricultural extension services to farmers and livestock owners.



The Center comprises the following:

- a nursery for fruit trees to produce new varieties that improve product diversification and marketing;
- veterinary tests for livestock in order to prevent and treat diseases, in addition to artificial insemination campaigns for cows and pregnancy detection tests;
- permanent exhibition hall for marketing rural production;
- lecture hall for training workshops and extension activities to all workers in the sector; and
- laboratory testing for soil and agricultural products.

● Mobile Soil Testing Laboratory

The Foundation established a mobile laboratory that provides comprehensive soil testing in terms of:

- capacity and quality;
- types of suitable crops;
- type and amount of suitable fertilizer for crops;
- quality of water used in irrigation and pesticide spraying.

Following testing, a team of agricultural engineers in the field offers necessary guidance to farmers in order to train them in ways to preserve soil quality and treat crop diseases.

● Support for Cow Breeders

This program is part of the Safadi Foundation's efforts to assist livestock and cow breeders in improving production. The Foundation has implemented this one year program with the support from the British Embassy. It includes:

- Conducting artificial insemination of cows owned by agricultural cooperatives and livestock owners in all parts of North Lebanon
- Ultrasound testing for pregnancy detection



Seven agricultural cooperatives and 381 livestock breeders have benefited from this program, as follows:

Caza	Agricultural cooperatives	Livestock breeders
Akkar	4	300
Zghorta	3	81
Total	7	381

The program has seen the artificial insemination conducted on 974 cows and ultrasound testing on 778 cows, resulting in 464 positive cases. A total of 680 births are expected in 2005.

The Foundation will continue to implement this program in 2005 with support to be provided by the Ministry of Agriculture.



Region	Number of meeting participants
Batroun	45
Akkar	49
Menieh	18
Dinnieh	12
Total	124

● **Regional Agricultural Extension Seminars**

The Foundation conducted a series of seminars that gathered 350 farmers from villages in Batroun, Akkar and Zghorta.

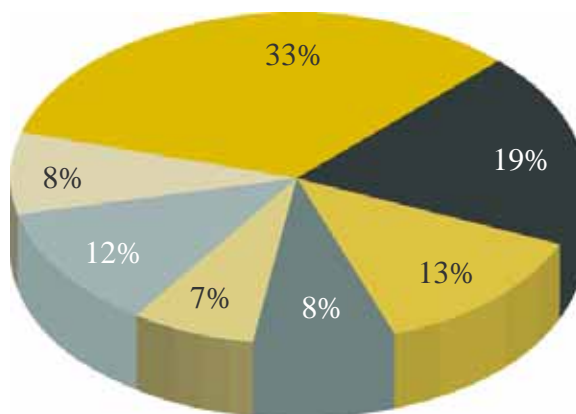
Seminar title	Region	Number of participants
Benefits of vaccination	Akkar	70
	Batroun	50
Sound nutrition for milk cows	Akkar	85
	Zghorta	67
	Batroun	78
Total		350

● **The North Lebanon Green Campaign for Forestation**

As part of an initiative targeting agriculture and the environment, the Foundation completed its annual green campaign in all parts of North Lebanon, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture. The 2004 campaign took place with the participation of more than 75 agricultural cooperatives, municipalities, clubs and civil associations, as around 40,000 saplings were distributed, as follows:

Caza	Fruit trees	Forest trees	Total
Dinnieh	1208	2000	3208
Menieh	750	2000	2750
Koura	825	4000	4825
Batroun	390	3000	3390
Tripoli	-	5300	5300
Akkar	2550	5000	7550
Total	5723	21300	27023

Natural reserves in Bsharre and Batroun also benefited from the program, receiving 12,900 fruit and forest trees.



Percentage of Forestation, by Caza

- Koura 12%
- Tripoli 13%
- Dinnieh 8%
- Batroun 8%
- Bsharre and Batroun 33%
- Menieh 7%
- Akkar 19%